

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for setting a limit on the duration of a voice channel communication, comprising:

receiving a communication from a subscriber on a first network element, said communication causing said first network element to send a request to a second network element;

in response to said request, sending a message from said second network element to said first network element, causing said first network element to request entry of demarcation information, wherein said demarcation information comprises a demarcation interval;

receiving said demarcation information at said first network element; and
communicating said demarcation information to said second network element, causing said second network element to store said demarcation information; and
wherein said subscriber provides said demarcation information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein storing said demarcation information comprises:

comparing said demarcation interval to a default demarcation interval;
determining which quantity is a lesser quantity; and
storing said lesser quantity as said demarcation interval.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said demarcation information further comprises a time period to which the demarcation interval applies.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said demarcation information further comprises identification information for a first station participating in said voice channel communication.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said demarcation information further comprises identification information for a second station participating in said voice channel communication.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving of said demarcation information comprises receiving said demarcation interval as a monetary quantity.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element comprises a service switching point.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second network element comprises a service control point.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising billing for accepting and enforcing said demarcation information.
10. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a demarcated voice channel communication, comprising:
- receiving a communication at a first network element, said communication having identification information associated therewith, including identification information for a first station and a second station;
 - providing said identification information from said first network element to a second network element;
 - in response to receiving said identification information, said second network element:
 - determining a demarcation interval for said communication based on demarcation information provided by a subscriber, and
 - providing a demarcation message to said first network element, said demarcation message including said demarcation interval; and
 - in response to receiving said demarcation message, said first network element:

routing said communication for connection between said first station and said second station, and

indicating the expiration of said demarcation interval.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said first network element indicating the expiration of said demarcation interval comprises said first network element playing a demarcation signal, indicating said expiration of said demarcation interval.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said first network element indicating the expiration of said demarcation interval comprises said first network element effecting the disconnection of said communication.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said identification information comprises a password, said password causing said second network element to determine that said demarcation interval is infinite.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said second network element determining said demarcation interval comprises said second network element determining said demarcation interval based on demarcation information relating to said first station, said demarcation information being accessed through said identification information.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said second network element determining said demarcation interval comprises said second network element determining said demarcation interval based on demarcation information relating to said second station, said demarcation information being accessed through said identification information.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said second network element determining said demarcation interval comprises said second network element

determining said demarcation interval based on a monetary rate for said communication interval based on said as calculated using said identification information.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, after said first network element playing said demarcation signal; further comprising said first network element effecting the disconnection of said communication.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
after said first network element routing said communication, said first network element: measuring the duration of said communication, and providing the measured duration of said communication to said second network element; and
in response to receiving said measured duration of said communication, said second network element deducting said duration from said demarcation interval set by said subscriber.

19. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said first station is an originating station for said demarcated voice channel communication.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said first station is a terminating station for said demarcated voice channel communication.

21. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said first network element comprises a service switching point.

22. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said second network element comprises a service control point.

23. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising billing for said providing of said demarcated voice channel communication.

24. (Previously Presented) A system for setting a limit on the duration of a voice channel communication, comprising:

- a first network element, functionally connected to a telecommunications network;
- a second network element, functionally connected to said telecommunications

network,

- wherein said second network element comprises:

- a caller-controlled call demarcation entry component, and
- a demarcation information data store,

- wherein said demarcation information comprises a demarcation interval; and a link functionally connecting said first network element and said second network element.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said demarcation information further comprises a time period to which the demarcation interval applies.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said demarcation information further comprises identification information for said first station.

27. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said demarcation information further comprises identification information for a second station.

28. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said caller-controlled call demarcation entry component further comprises a monetary rate to demarcation interval converter.

29. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said first network element comprises a service switching point.

30. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said second network element comprises a service control point.

31. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said second network element further comprises a billing element.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a demarcated voice channel for communication, comprising:

a telecommunications network;

a first network element, functionally connected to said telecommunications network;

a second network element, functionally connected to said telecommunications network,

wherein said second network element comprises:

a call demarcation component, and

a demarcation information data store,

wherein said demarcation information comprises

a demarcation interval;

a link functionally connecting said first network element and said second network element; and

a first station functionally connected to said first network element,

wherein said demarcation interval is provided by a subscriber.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first network element comprises a demarcation signal component.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first network element comprises a communication disconnection component.

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said identification information comprises a password, said password causing said second network element to determine that said demarcation interval is infinite.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein said demarcation information further comprises a first station demarcation interval.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein said demarcation information further comprises a second station demarcation interval.

38. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said call demarcation component further comprises a monetary rate to demarcation interval converter.

39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first station is an originating station for said demarcated voice channel communication.

40. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first station is a terminating station for said demarcated voice channel communication.

41. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said first network element comprises a service switching point.

42. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said second network element comprises a service control point.

43. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said second network element further comprises a billing component.

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